

LAKE OKEECHOBEE SYSTEM OPERATING MANUAL (LOSOM) A COMPONENT OF THE CENTRAL & SOUTHERN FLORIDA (C&SF) SYSTEM OPERATING PLAN

South Florida Ecosystem Task Force Briefing

Prepared by COL Andrew D. Kelly, Jr

26 April 2019

"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."



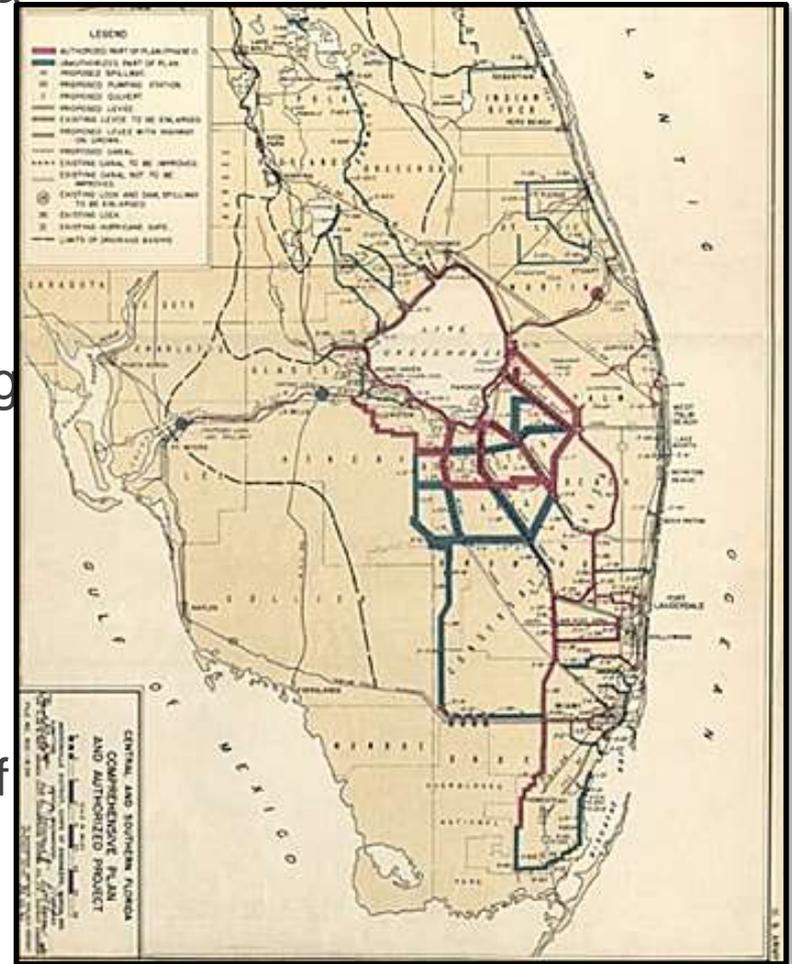
**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**



U.S. ARMY

LAKE OKEECHOBEE

- Part of the Central & Southern Florida (C&SF) Project (*Authorized 1948 – House Document No. 643*)
- Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) authorized and constructed in response to deadly hurricane flooding (*Authorized 1930 – House Record 11781*)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates and maintains Lake Okeechobee as well as other parts of the C&SF Project
- Lake Okeechobee operations are governed by a manual developed through a public process



US Army Corps
of Engineers.



WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- Reviewing Lake O operations
- Results in an operational plan
- Not recommending any new infrastructure



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

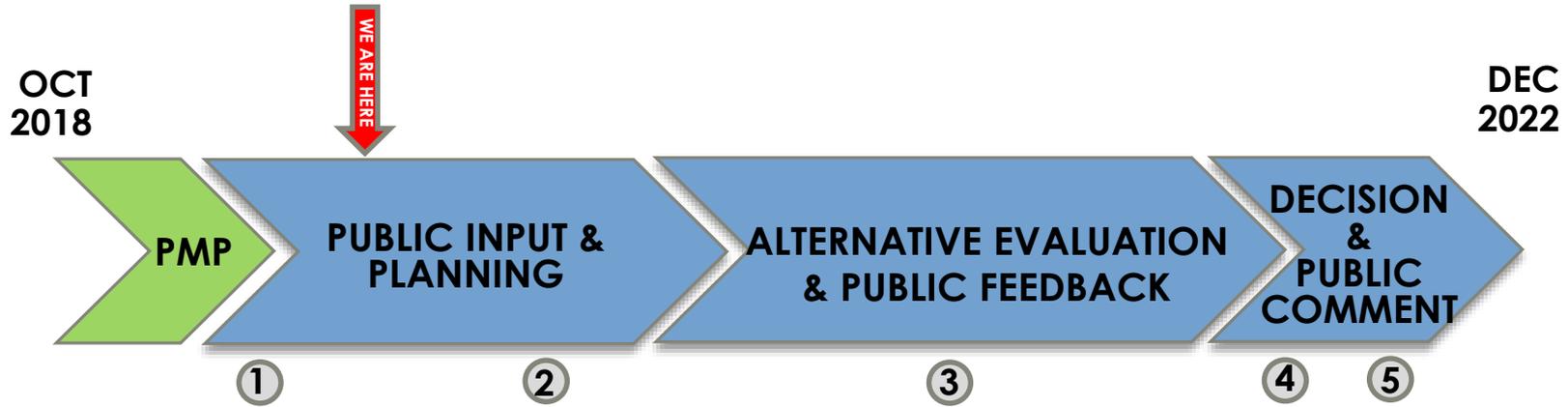


WHY ARE WE DOING IT NOW?

- LORS 2008 determined lake regulation should be revisited when:
 - Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) rehabilitation complete
 - Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects C-43 and C-44 complete
- Section 1106 of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018



TIMELINE AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Public Engagement Opportunities	Date
1 - Scoping Meetings (complete)	February 2019
2 - Planning Workshops	May & August 2019
3 - Alternative Evaluation Workshops	Multiple in 2019 -2021
4 - Draft Report - Public Comment Period	April-May 2022
5 - Final Report – Public Comment Period	September 2022

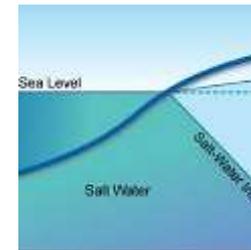
or Engineers.



MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS



FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT
Public Health & Safety
Dam Safety



PREVENTION OF SALT WATER INTRUSION



ENHANCEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Estuaries, Lake O, & Everglades



WATER SUPPLY
Municipal, Industrial, Native American, Agricultural, and Environment



WATERWAY NAVIGATION
Commercial/Recreational Traffic



RECREATION



WATER QUALITY



LOSOM STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

Okeechobee/ North Lake (FEB 6)

- Time = Take time; use sound science
- Lake Level = Higher
- Focus = Water quality

Stuart/ St. Lucie Estuary (FEB 19)

- Time = Accelerate LOSOM
- Lake Level = Lower
- Focus = Human health; Algae; Economy

Ft. Myers/ Caloosahatchee Estuary (FEB 5)

- Time = Accelerate LOSOM
- Lake Level = Lower; move water south
- Focus = Human and ecosystem health; Algae

Clewiston/ South Lake (FEB 11)

- Time = Take time; Science, not politics, drive schedule
- Lake Level = Higher
- Focus = Agriculture; Water supply; Recreation; Lake health

West Palm Beach (FEB 27)

- Time = Accelerate LOSOM
- Lake Level = Higher
- Focus = Water supply; Water Quality

Ft Lauderdale/Broward (FEB 26)

- Time = Accelerate LOSOM
- Lake Level = Higher/Lower
- Focus = Water supply; Water quality; Algae; Economy

Miami/ Dade County (FEB 28)

- Time = Take time; Science, not politics, drive schedule
- Lake Level = Higher
- Focus: Improve flow to Everglades, Biscayne Bay; Water Supply

Keys/ Florida Bay (MAR 20)

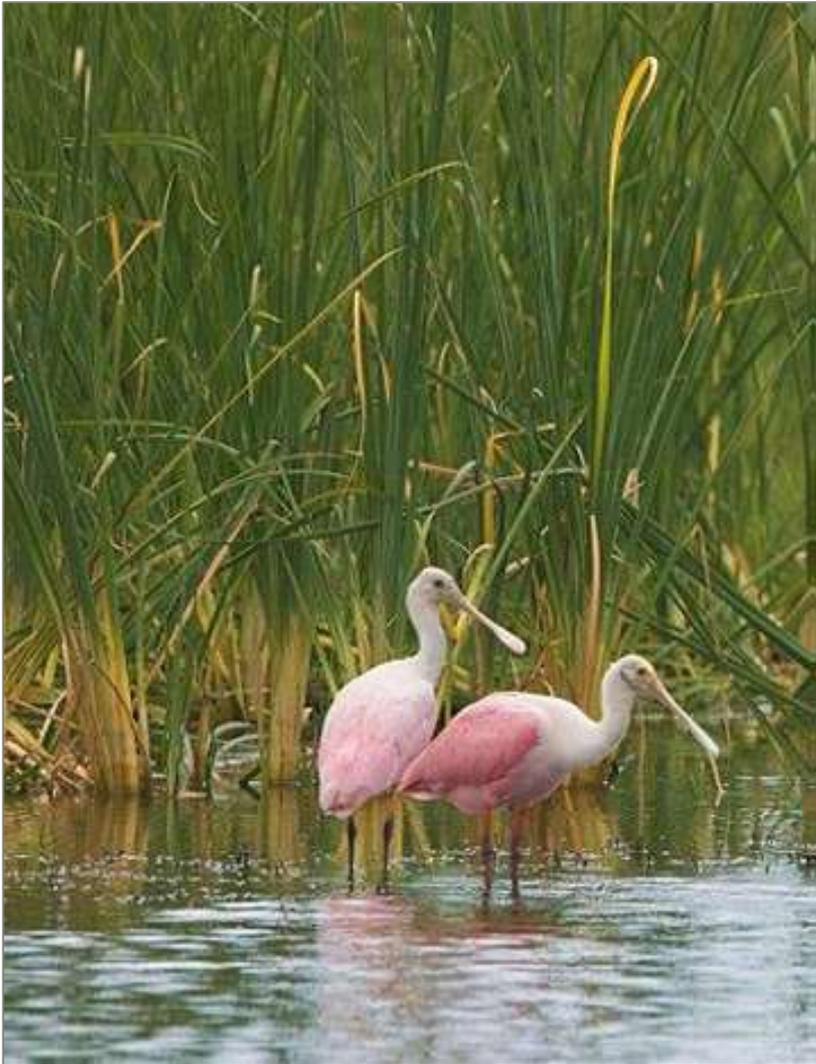
- Time = Take time; Science, not politics, drive schedule
- Lake Level = Higher
- Focus = Improve flow to Everglades and Florida Bay; Water supply; Water quality



US Army Corps
of Engineers.



LOSOM UPCOMING MEETINGS



Educational Webinars

Mid May 2019

Topics: C&SF 101, Water Management, Dam Safety, Kissimmee River Restoration, Lake Ecology, Estuary Ecology

Workshops

Late May/Early June 2019

Locations: Four (4) venues in both estuaries, Lake Okeechobee, lower east coast

Agenda Items: water management decision making experience, LOSOM performance measures, Q&A's



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

